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G.R.E.A.T.®

Gang Resistance Education and Training

News

Midwest Region Named!!

by Nancy Henrietta
Management Assistant, ATF

After much anticipation, the G.R.E.A.T. National Policy Board, during their June 1998 meeting, unanimously approved La Crosse, WI as the G.R.E.A.T. Midwest Regional Training Site. This was the final region among five to be named to meet G.R.E.A.T. Plan 2000. The other Regional Training Sites include: Phoenix, AZ (Southwest Region); Portland, OR (Northwest Region); Philadelphia, PA (Northeast Region); and Orange County, FL (Southeast Region).

Chief Edward Kondracki of the La Crosse Police Department was extremely excited about being chosen as the fifth regional training site for the G.R.E.A.T. Program.

He believes, "... the G.R.E.A.T. Program is an excellent example of a collaborative and proactive community policing program specifically designed to combat gangs."

Captain Doug Groth, La Crosse Police Department, who will work on the National Training Committee was also enthusiastic about being chosen as the Midwestern Regional Training Site for the G.R.E.A.T. Program. "Our representation at the national level will allow a perspective from a medium-sized police agency," Groth said.



The La Crosse Police Department serves a community of approximately 60,000 "cheeseheads" in what is the sixth largest city in the State of Wisconsin. The department is strategically located in the tri-state area of Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Chief Kondracki believes, "... our location and experience in

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The mission of G.R.E.A.T. is to provide classroom instruction for school-aged children and a wide range of community-based activities that result in the necessary life skills, a sense of competency, usefulness, and personal empowerment needed to avoid involvement in youth violence and criminal activities.



Inside this issue...

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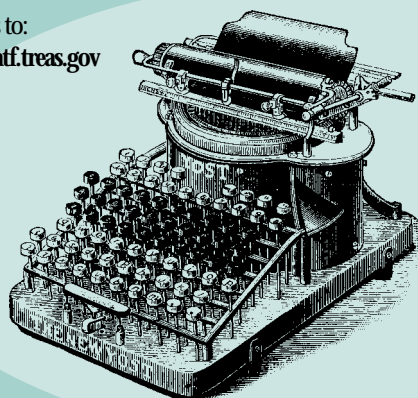
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"G.R.E.A.T. News" welcomes your input. Please send articles to us for inclusion into our newsletter. Written articles should be typed and submitted in plain ASCII text (MS Word is even better) on a disk. All articles will be subject to editorial review. Please send your material to the attention of Management Analyst James Scott at:

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Boys and Girls Clubs of America Form Partnership with G.R.E.A.T.

*by Special Agent Essam Rabadi
Training Manager, G.R.E.A.T. Program*

Since April 1998, I've been part of an initiative focused on forming a partnership between the Boys and Girls Clubs of America (B&GCA) and the G.R.E.A.T. Program. Since G.R.E.A.T. is a prevention program that seeks to deter students from gang activities, it made sense to establish a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club as they have similar programs, such as their Torch Program and Street Smart Program. Like G.R.E.A.T., these programs seek to deter young people from gang life by providing the mental tools to resist gang pressure as well as provide a safe haven from the negative influences of the street. Our partnership's goal is to use the successes and proven methods of each program in a combined effort to prepare young people for the everyday pressures they face.

We had numerous meetings early in the year between representatives of the Boys and Girls Club and G.R.E.A.T. exploring the feasibility of a formal partnership. During these meetings, we exchanged information about the structure and curriculum of the respective programs as well as strategies to combine the gang prevention efforts of both programs. As a result of these meetings, the representatives determined that a Boys and Girls Club/G.R.E.A.T. pilot partnership should be formed in communities currently utilizing the G.R.E.A.T. Program.

The B&GCA and G.R.E.A.T. identified four sites where partnerships could be piloted. These sites were Portland, Oregon; Tucson, Arizona; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Memphis, Tennessee. These Boys and Girls Clubs were selected due to their strong track records as well as their current involvement with the Street Smart Program. Similarly, the police departments in those communities were selected based upon the success of their G.R.E.A.T. Program.

I traveled to the four pilot cities this past summer and met with various B&GCA officials and representatives from local police agencies. I was pleased to learn that they were already trying to establish relationships between their respective organizations. As a result, both the police officials and B&GCA representatives enthusiastically received the idea of the proposed partnership and its intended goals. Scheduling conflicts, student site selections, and other logistical issues were discussed and resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

The pilot programs at all four sites were initiated in July and upon completion were considered a tremendous success by all parties involved. Feedback from police officers teaching the G.R.E.A.T. curriculum, as well as staffers from the B&GCA, indicated that the students at the clubs greatly benefited from having the program. Having a uniformed police officer at the B&GCA sites was a new experience for

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"these gangbangers didn't like the fact that we were teaching the kids to resist them and they were actually trying to disrupt the program."



Surrounded by Gems

by Daniel L. Richmond
Philadelphia Police Department

Once again we had a successful summer program in the City of Brotherly Love. The Philadelphia G.R.E.A.T. Team divided its G.R.E.A.T. cadre of officers to six centers throughout the city. We were able to provide services and recreational activities to approximately 250 young people between the ages of 10 and 14.

One site was the Athletic Recreational Center located in the North Philadelphia section of the city known as Brewertown. This center is home to the U.S. Olympic gold medalist winner in the heavyweight boxing division, David Reid. Two of our former G.R.E.A.T. campers, Louis Robinson and Earnest Williams, are now developing their skills as boxers, under the tutelage of Mr. Fred Jenkins, the director of the center. This opportunity was made possible by the close proximity of our G.R.E.A.T. meeting room to the gym.

With the help of community leaders, neighborhood block captains and officials from home and school associations, we were able to register 42 young people this summer. Many of our students had previous contacts with officers from school-based prevention programs.

Our day usually began with a roll call at 10:15 a.m. Students who were on time were awarded credit and provided a small perk as an incentive for their attendance and punctuality. This was given at the end of the week. The reward system produced 30 to 35 students each day. After roll call, we would have our educational block of instruction. This may have been an outside speaker from a city agency whose services were provided free of charge. Some agencies represented were the Philadelphia Police Department, Specialized Units, Philadelphia Fire Department, District Attorneys Office, Prisons, local hospitals and the Delaware River Port Authority—which patrols and services the bridges that connect Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Camden, New Jersey. If we had a day that an outside speaker was not scheduled, we relied on the expertise of one of our site

officers. Sgt. Steve Naughton and Cpl. Karen Preston were responsible for the planning and coordination of the speakers and the lunch program.

After the educational block, we provided a recreational period with students participating in swimming lessons by the G.R.E.A.T. Running and Walking Club. This gave students an opportunity to interact with each other in a positive competitive environment. Prior to these activities, we instructed students on the importance of goal setting and maintaining their physical conditioning exercises. Also, there was a secondary benefit to the site officers; they shed many unwanted pounds during these physical activities. The coveted prize awarded to the G.R.E.A.T. camper who logged

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National Youth Gang Symposium Workshop



July 27-30, 1999

in

Las Vegas, Nevada

The G.R.E.A.T. Program is a co-sponsor of this symposium and will be holding an in-service for G.R.E.A.T. supervisors.

This is an independent workshop for supervisors who have not attended G.R.E.A.T. training, but who supervise G.R.E.A.T. officers.

This is an 8 hour pre-conference workshop.

If you are interested in participating as a student in the G.R.E.A.T. Supervisor class, contact Special Agent Dawn Abrams at 1-800-726-7070.




What weighs in excess of 145,000 pounds (that's over 72 tons) and was pulled by 20 G.R.E.A.T. Officers?

*by Pete Merenyi
ATF*

The answer is a Boeing 727 jet. Yes, jet airplanes have engines and can move without being pulled, but that's another story. This competition pitted teams of 20 persons each, to see who could move the airplane 12 feet in the least amount of time. The G.R.E.A.T. Program sponsored a team in this unique event which benefited Virginia Special Olympics. It was the annual Virginia Special Olympics Airplane Pull that took place on May 30, 1998, at Dulles International Airport.

The Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority Police Department sponsored the event. Federal Express donated the 727, which was pulled by 37 teams. The

G.R.E.A.T. Team placed 13th out of the 37 teams entered in the competition. This is very high for a first time team! The team's effort symbolized the spirit of the G.R.E.A.T. Program itself. It proved that working together, we can overcome the toughest obstacles. What was too heavy a burden for one, or even 10, was moved by 20. As we face the challenges and obstacles in our everyday lives, departments, and schools, we are reminded that together we can be victorious. We don't have to go it alone! This event raised over \$50,000 for Virginia Special Olympics. The G.R.E.A.T. Program also had an information booth set up to promote the program in the local area. This was truly a G.R.E.A.T. event. 





"Midwest Region" continued from page 1

community policing will [allow] the opportunity to provide a meaningful experience for law enforcement in our region."

Referring to the significance that their program will have on the Midwest Region, Sergeant Raj Ramnarace, La Crosse Police Department, stated, "We are likely to see a significant impact on programs within our region. Easier access to G.R.E.A.T. training and information about the program are two of the benefits agencies in the Midwest can expect as a result of regional representation. The promotion of G.R.E.A.T. within the states in the Midwest should make G.R.E.A.T. a more visible program for agencies that are not normally able to attend national conferences or travel outside of their own states."

Beginning in October 1999, G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training will be taught in this new region. In the meantime, La Crosse has begun developing the newest of the five training site facilities that will serve 10 states within the Midwest Region.

The Training Site

The Wisconsin State Patrol Academy, located at Fort McCoy, was selected as the Midwest Regional Training Site. It's a quick 25 minute drive from the La Crosse, Wisconsin Airport. The Academy, a state-of-the-art training facility, offers numerous amenities including six fully equipped classrooms, a law library, a computer lab, a large all-purpose room, conference rooms, student lounges, dining facilities, and double occupancy dormitory accommodations for more than 100 people.

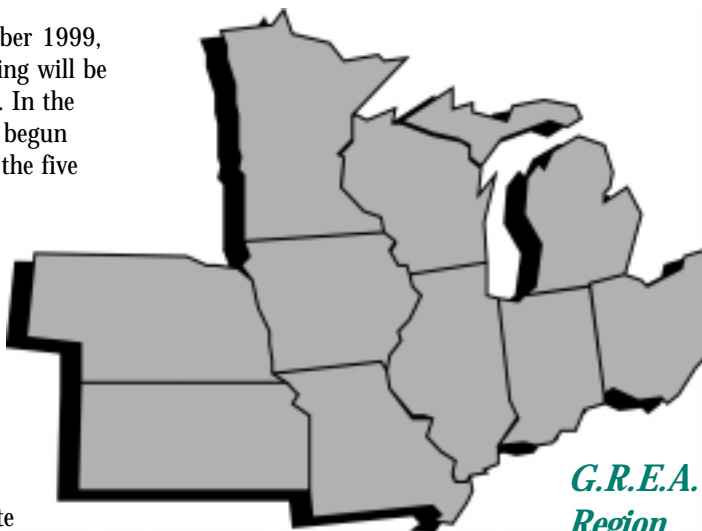
Students and staff will also have access to the Army Reserve Training Academy located across the street, and the Fort McCoy Field House Gymnasium and Recreation Center located ¼ mile down the road.

Entertainment and dining are abundant in the surrounding communities of La Crosse, Sparta, and Tomah, all 25 minutes or less from the Academy.

Chief Kondracki hopes the facility will be up and

running as soon as possible, "We will provide easy access to the training site from local area airports. The facility will provide an excellent training environment and, at the same time, afford physical fitness and recreational opportunities for all attendees."

Capt. Groth plans to have the Regional Training Administrator and Administrative Assistant on-line immediately. Capt. Groth is striving to move forward quickly to be up and running as soon as is physically and humanly possible, "Our goal is to offer the finest training experience possible for all participants by providing one of the finest training facilities in the country and personalized service second to none."



G.R.E.A.T. Midwest Region

No Strangers to the G.R.E.A.T. Program

Since 1993, five full-time G.R.E.A.T./DARE officers from the La Crosse Police Department have taught the Core and 4th grade curriculum to students. In 1996, their dedication to the program won them the Wisconsin Attorney General's "Law Enforcement Program of the Year" award for their 1995 G.R.E.A.T. Summer Program. This innovative Summer Program was in conjunction with the National Youth Sports Program at the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse.

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Gang Members and Delinquent Behavior

by Terence P. Thornberry and James H. Burch II

This article is part of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Youth Development Series, which presents findings from the Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency.

Program of Research on the Causes and Correlates of Delinquency

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has been funding the Causes and Correlates program for 10 years. The three research teams, competitively selected in 1986, collaborated extensively in designing the studies, identifying key theoretical concepts, and developing common “core” measures for these concepts. Content areas addressed in the core measures include official and self-reports of delinquent behavior; self-reports of drug use; characteristics of the community and neighborhood; demographic characteristics of the family; parental attitudes and child-rearing practices; youth attitudes, school performance, and perceived consequences of delinquency; and peer delinquency and conventional activities. These collaborative efforts represent a milestone in criminological research because to date they constitute the largest shared-measurement approach achieved in delinquency research. This research will enable the three teams and the juvenile justice field to aggregate data across projects and replicate findings across sites. In addition to research for the common measures, each project also collects unique measurements that add to the findings from each site.

The research teams have interviewed 4,000 participants in the 3 cities at regular intervals during the past 9 years, recording their lives in detail. More is known about the delinquency, substance use, and mental health problems in this group of individuals than about any other study

population in the United States. By supporting the collection and analyses of these data, the program has effectively created the largest data set currently available on young individuals growing up in inner cities from age six through the early 20's. The data from the three studies make it possible to examine many crucial questions pertaining to the origins of serious delinquency, substance use, and mental health problems. This article focuses on one of those questions: How much of the delinquency in America can be attributed to gang members?

Prior Research on Gang Members and Delinquency

Research has demonstrated that adolescents who join street gangs are more involved in delinquent acts than are adolescents who do not join such gangs. This is especially true for serious and violent delinquency. Moreover, the association between gang membership and delinquency has been observed from the earliest to the most contemporary gang research, including that of the Causes and Correlates program.

Despite this uniform finding, surprisingly few estimates exist of the proportion of all delinquent acts for which gang members are responsible; that is, although it is known that gang members have a higher rate of offending than nonmembers, the proportion of the total amount of crime that can be attributed to them is unknown. This is an important issue because, if gang members are responsible for a large proportion of all offenses, efforts to reduce the overall amount of crime in society will not be successful unless those efforts include an effective gang prevention, intervention, and suppression program.

The Rochester Youth Development Study (RYDS)

The RYDS started with a sample of 1,000 boys and girls in the seventh and eighth grades of the Rochester public schools. To maximize the number of serious, violent, and



chronic offenders available for the study, the sample includes more youth from high-crime areas. The entire range of seventh and eighth-grade students, however, are represented, and the data reported here are weighted to represent the total population. Data were collected at 6-month intervals from interviews with students and parents and from a variety of Rochester agencies including the schools, police, courts, and social services.

For the study of gang members' share of delinquent and criminal behavior, the researchers first divided the respondents into two groups: "gang members" (youth who reported being a gang member at some point prior to the end of high school) and "nonmembers" (youth who reported no involvement in gangs prior to this time). Based on interviews over a four year period with study participants who reported delinquent acts, the researchers estimated the total number of delinquent acts by participants during this period, which covered their high school years. They then calculated the percentages reported by gang members and nonmembers. Percentages were calculated for a general delinquency index containing 24 items covering status offenses, property crimes, and violent offenses. In addition, percentages were obtained for subindexes referring to particular types of offenses.

Results

The study results are displayed in the graph on page 9. The prevalence of gang membership in RYDS is 30 percent; that is, approximately one-third of the subjects reported being a member of a street gang at some point prior to the end of high school. In contrast, two-thirds of the subjects (70 percent) reported never having joined a street gang. If gang members do not contribute disproportionately to the amount of delinquency in society, they would be responsible for about one-third of the delinquent acts. In other words, gang members' share of all delinquencies should be proportionate to their share in the population.

The data in the bar graph indicate that gang members' delinquencies are not proportionate to their representation in the larger population. A look at the first section on general delinquency reveals that, during the 4 years covered in this report, 65 percent of the delinquent acts were reported by gang members. Thus, gang members account for twice as many acts of delinquency as one would expect given their share in the population. In contrast, nonmembers represent 70 percent of the subjects but account for only 35 percent of these delinquent acts.

In the second section of the bar graph, the indexes are grouped according to the seriousness of the delinquent acts. The

disproportionate contribution of gang members to delinquency is greater for the more serious crimes. While making up only one-third of the study group, gang members account for 86 percent of all the serious delinquent acts reported in the interviews. They also account for 67 percent of the acts on the moderate delinquency index and 59 percent of the acts on the minor delinquency index.

The third section presents data by type of offense—violent, property, public disorder (for example, being loud, rowdy, or drunk in public), and drug sales. Gang members are responsible for 69 percent of all the self-reported violent acts, 68 percent of the property crimes, 60 percent of the public disorder crimes, and 70 percent of the drug sales. (This does not necessarily contradict other recent research that suggests a lower level of organized drug sales activity by gangs but does seem to confirm that individual gang members, as opposed to the "gang" as a unit, are involved in drug sales and usage to a large degree.)

Finally, the fourth section of the bar graph presents information on substance use. Gang members reported 63 percent of the instances of alcohol use that were reported during this four year period. They also account for 61 percent of the instances of other drug use.

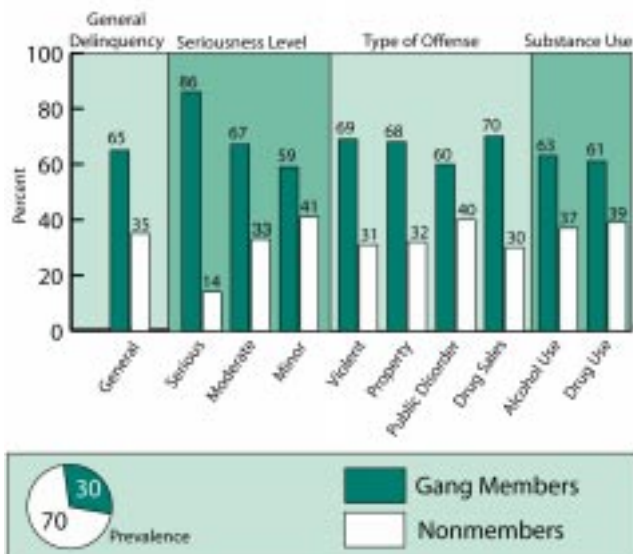
Summary and Implications

These results clearly indicate that gang members account for the lion's share of delinquent acts, especially the more serious delinquent acts. While representing only one-third of the respondents in RYDS, gang members account for 86 percent of the serious delinquent acts, 69 percent of the violent delinquent acts, and 70 percent of the drug sales.

The findings of this report present a stark challenge to the American public. These findings underline the importance of establishing effective intervention programs for gang-involved youth because failure to do so may result in a failure to make substantial progress in the Nation's efforts to reduce serious, violent, and chronic delinquency. This is a difficult challenge, however, because many past efforts to combat street gangs have not met with success. Indeed, noted gang researcher Dr. Malcolm Klein has concluded: "The simple fact is that much of our local response and most of our state and federal responses to gang problems are way off base—conceptually misguided, poorly implemented and halfhearted pursued" (Klein, 1995). However, as Dr. Irving Spergel, another renowned gang researcher, has noted, "What is past is prologue . . . There are both continuity and change in the policies and practices that show promise in dealing with gang issues. The challenge is to



Percent of Delinquent Acts Attributable to Gang Members and Prevalence of Gang Members



create a new paradigm of action that modifies past approaches to make them relevant to current and evolving situations.” (Spergel, 1995.) Spergel emphasizes that gang prevention and reduction strategies must consider the individual, the family, the school, peer groups, a variety of organizations, and the community—a view that is consistent with OJJDP’s Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders. Moreover, according to Spergel, “New institutional cross-agency and cross-jurisdictional arrangements must evolve, and new policies and programs must be developed and then rigorously and widely tested, so that we will know what truly works and what does not.” (Spergel, 1995.)

To summarize, the RYDS report and experiences in the field suggest that the United States can no longer afford “business as usual” in this arena and that the research, development, implementation, and testing of gang programs is perhaps becoming even more essential, given the proven impact of gang membership on delinquency and criminal activity. Renewed efforts and resources must be directed toward reducing the dominant role that gang-involved youth play in serious and violent delinquency. ~

Terence P. Thornberry, Ph.D., is the principal investigator of OJJDP’s Rochester Youth Development Study. James H. Burch II is a program manager in OJJDP’s Special Emphasis Division.

“Boys and Girls Club” continued from page 3

staffers at those sites and a welcome addition. In fact, in the Tucson program, the local police initiated bike patrols around the club due to threats to staffers by gang members. As Sgt. Kirk Simmons of the Tucson Police Department explained, “these gangbangers didn’t like the fact that we were teaching the kids to resist them and they were actually trying to disrupt the program.”

Upon completion of the program, students were now able to see the police officers in a different light and know that he or she was someone they could go to for advice. Ultimately, the officers were able to expose the G.R.E.A.T. Program to students who normally would not have received it in their schools. Each of the summer programs culminated in a graduation ceremony and a group outing to a local attraction.

On September 16, 1998, at the annual congressional breakfast sponsored by the Boys & Girls Clubs, Director John W. Magaw announced the new partnership between ATF and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America—converting the pilot program into a permanent relationship. In a formal signing ceremony Chairman Rick Goings of the Boys and Girls Clubs and Director Magaw signed a statement of declaration committing both parties to a partnership “to pursue the goal of enriching the lives of our nation’s youth.”

In November of 1998, representatives from all four pilot sites met in Baltimore, Maryland for a roundtable discussion on the pilot program. Participants discussed the effectiveness of G.R.E.A.T. at each of the sites and made a final recommendation to expand the program to other cities. During the summer of 1999, the G.R.E.A.T. Program will be taught at 40 B&GCA clubs located throughout the country. ~





"Midwest Region" continued from page 6

The Lineup

National Policy Board — Edward N. Kondracki, Chief of Police for the City of La Crosse, Wisconsin, was recently appointed to the National Policy Board as the representative from the Midwest Region for the G.R.E.A.T. Program. The Chief has led the 116-person police agency in La Crosse since 1993. It was then that he began the G.R.E.A.T. Program as a proactive measure, after recognizing the presence of warning signs of gang activity in the community.

Chief Kondracki has been involved in law enforcement since the beginning of his career. He is a graduate of Marquette University with a bachelor's degree in Criminology and is also a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Management. He is also a 28-year veteran of the Milwaukee Police Department. During that time, he performed in all facets of law enforcement including patrol, investigation, administration, and training. It is worth noting that while with the Milwaukee Police Department Chief Kondracki developed many of the department's



Chief Edward N. Kondracki, National Policy Board Member, La Crosse Police Department, Wisconsin

Community Problem Oriented Policing implementation strategies and was responsible for having these concepts adopted as the philosophy of the police department.

His community activities include the Red Cross Board of Directors, Hmong Mutual Assistance Association, Americorps Steering Committee, and the Wisconsin and International Associations of Chiefs of Police. Chief Kondracki is also the 1998 United Way Chairman for the Greater La Crosse area.



Captain Doug Groth, National Training Committee, La Crosse Police Department, Wisconsin

National Training Committee — Captain Doug Groth is a lifelong resident of La Crosse and began his law enforcement career with the La Crosse Police Department back in 1975. Capt. Groth has steadily moved up the ranks within the department starting as a patrolman.

September 1, 1998, he was promoted to Captain and named Director of the Community Services Bureau, where he has been working since 1984. Over the years, the Community Services Bureau has evolved to include the delivery of programs such as G.R.E.A.T., DARE, Crime Stoppers, Media Relations, Adult School Crossing Guards, and Community Oriented Policing.